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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Nineteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 524th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 18 October 1979, at 6 p.m.

President: Mr. HEGLAND (Norway)

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The meeting was called to order at 7.20 p.m.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (agenda item 4) (continued)

(a) Adoption of the report on credentials (TD/B/760)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that the Bureau had examined the credentials of representatives attending the nineteenth session and had found them in order. He invited the Board to adopt the report of the Bureau (TD/B/760).

2. It was so decided.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 11) (continued)

(a) Revision of the rules of procedure of the Board and of its main Committees

3. The PRESIDENT said that, consequent upon the amendment made by the General Assembly to its resolution 1995 (XIX), paragraph 1(f) of section II, rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the Board would have to be amended to read: "The Trade and Development Board shall normally hold two regular sessions a year". Consultations had been held among the regional groups concerning the consequential amendments which might have to be made to the rules for the election of officers. Under rule 81, the rules referred to in rule 70 could not be amended until the Board had received a report from a working party established for that purpose. However, under rule 82, the Board might suspend rule 81 which, if there was no objection, could be done without the 24 hours' notice provided for in rule 82.

4. He therefore suggested that the secretariat should prepare the texts of the amendments to be made to rule 11 on the election of officers, in the light of consultations which had been held, and of the consequent amendments to rule 19 and annex I on the system of rotation among the groups for the election of the President and Rapporteur of the Board. The draft text would be submitted to the Board at its next plenary meeting.

5. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said he hoped that the amendments to be submitted by the secretariat would also contain the following provisions: (a) the officers elected for one regular session would remain in office only for that session and until the election of the officers for the following regular session; (b) for any special session of the Board, it would be understood that the officers would be those of the preceding regular session; and (c) the amendments to the rules of procedure should in no case alter the rotation among the groups; their effect would simply be to accelerate the rate of rotation since, in lieu of an annual cycle, there would in future be a six-months' cycle between one session and the next.

(c) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure (TD/B/761).

6. The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat had received applications from eight non-governmental organizations for designation under rule 77 of the rules of procedure and that, in accordance with established practice, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had consulted the Bureau on those applications. The Bureau had concurred with the

recommendations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (TD/...). The organizations concerned were: General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries ("General" category); International Association of Agricultural Economists ("General" category); Central American Shipowners' Association ("Special" category, Committee on Shipping); Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies ("Special" category, Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade and Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries); Federation of Commodity Associations ("Special" category, Committee on Commodities); International Association of Independent Tanker Owners ("Special" category, Committee on Shipping); International Organization of Consumers' Unions ("Special" category, Committee on Manufactures, and Committee on the Transfer of Technology); Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses ("Special" category, Committee on Shipping).

7. He took it that the Board wished to reclassify those organizations for the purposes of rule 79 of the rules of procedure and, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Board decision 45 (VII) to classify them as recommended in the annex to the secretariat's note.

8. It was so decided.

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to take action on the application for reclassification to the "General" category received from the International Union of Marine Insurance, currently in the "Special" category. The Union, which has an interest in the work of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade and the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, was also interested in the work of a subsidiary body of the Committee on Shipping. Since it was thus concerned with matters falling within the terms of reference of more than two committees, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had recommended to the Bureau that it should be reclassified from the "Special" to the "General" category, in the list provided for in rule 79 of the rules of procedure of the Board and in accordance with paragraph 1(a) of decision 45 (VII). Since the Bureau of the Board had concurred with that recommendation, he proposed that the International Union of Marine Insurance should be reclassified from the "Special" to the "General" category.

10. It was so decided.

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 14) (continued):

(a) Special Programme on Trade Facilitation

11. The PRESIDENT read out a draft decision which had been approved by the co-ordinators of the regional groups.

12. The draft decision was adopted.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.